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TAGS: [EUN](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ZI](#) [GG](#) [RS](#) [LO](#)
SUBJECT: SLOVAK GAERC POSITIONS

REF: SECSTATE 108064

Classified By: DCM Keith Eddins for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) Poloff delivered reftel points to Albin Otruba, European Correspondent at the Slovak MFA, on October 9. Slovak views on Zimbabwe, Belarus and Georgia are all nearly aligned with U.S. views. Slovakia will support lifting visa restrictions and the Arms Embargo against Uzbekistan. Otruba expects EU FMs will have little time for substantive policy debate at this GAERC as their priority will be preparation for the upcoming European Council meeting.

GEORGIA

¶2. (C) Otruba appreciated the U.S. points on Georgia and said Slovakia's position is "very simmlar." Slovakia wants Russia's obligation to remove armed forces from South Ossetia and Abkhazia to be referenced in any communique, even though it is "clearly not realistic" and the EU's relations with Russia should not be made conditional on such a withdrawal.

Belarus

¶3. (SBU) Otruba said Slovakia "fully agrees" with U.S. points on Belarus. They view recent Belarusian moves through the context of the Georgian crisis, and wish to encourage positive steps without taking the pressure off. To that end, Slovakia will support a limited suspension of visa restrictions for second and third level officials of the Belarusian government. Visas for President Lukashenko and his closest advisers should remain restricted, according to Otruba.

Zimbabwe

¶4. (SBU) As far as Slovakia is concerned the agreement between President Mugabe and the MDU has not been implemented until a new government has been formed. Until that time, nothing has changed and there is no need to review the EU's sanctions.

Uzbekistan

¶5. (C) Slovakia will support the lifting of visa restrictions and the arms embargo against Uzbekistan. Otruba said neither has been effective, and in the context of the Georgia-Russia crisis such restrictions only serve to limit EU influence in a strategically important country. Otruba argued that is "necessary to be relistic about democracy in Central Asia. There isno chance of a western type democracy arising in Uzbekistan."

EDDINS